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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER	
VO, HUYEN X	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2655	

DATE MAILED: 05/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/803,209	NIIE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Huyen Vo	2655	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *10 March 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *20-33* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *20-33* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *16 June 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Carl I. Brundidge on 5/4/2005. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 20 has been amended as follow:

20. A service providing system comprising:

at least two or more service providing apparatuses, each of which processes information to provide a service;

a service requesting apparatus for processing information to request one of said service providing apparatuses to provide their service; and

a service mediating apparatus coupled to said at least two service providing apparatuses and said service requesting apparatus via a network,

wherein said service requesting apparatus receives a voice input indicating an instruction as to a service requested by a user of the service requesting apparatus,

wherein said service mediating apparatus specifies an appropriate one of said at least two service providing apparatuses, which performs a process corresponding to the

instruction, and specifies a speech recognition engine, from a plurality of speech recognition engines,

wherein the specified speech recognition engine recognizes the voice input from said user appropriate to the specified one of said at least two service providing apparatuses, and

wherein the specified one of said at least two service providing apparatuses processes information to provide its service based on the speech recognition performed by the specified speech recognition engine.

Claim 26 has been amended as follow:

26. The service providing system according to claim 20, wherein said service mediating apparatus, comprising:

means for receiving, via said network, a voice input indicating an instruction as to a service requested by a user of the service requesting apparatus, the voice input having been received by said service requesting apparatus;

means for specifying one of said at least two service providing apparatuses, which performs a process corresponding to the instruction;

means for specifying a speech recognition engine which recognizes the voice input from the user appropriate to the specified one of said at least two service providing apparatus; and

a table having a plurality of entries defining corresponding relationships between said at least two service providing apparatuses and speech recognition engines each of which recognizes particular speech, the table is used to select one of said speech recognition engines which recognizes said particular speech corresponding to the instruction.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 20-33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection necessitated by claim amendment in view of Kurganov et al. (US 6757718).

3. The system architecture of the system claimed in the base claim is very well known in the art. Applicant is advised to include details to further define the novelty of their invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurganov et al. (US 6757718) in view of Besling et al. (US 6757655).

6. Regarding claim 20, Kurganov et al. disclose a service providing system comprising: at least two or more service providing apparatuses, each of which processes information to provide a service (*element 114 in figure 1 or element 50 in figure 5*); a service requesting apparatus for processing information to request one of said service providing apparatuses to provide their service (*client device 112 in figure 1 or client device 504 in figure 5*); and a service mediating apparatus coupled to said at least two service providing apparatuses and said service requesting apparatus via a network (*element 118 in figure 1 or element 514 in figure 5*), wherein said service requesting apparatus receives a voice input indicating an instruction as to a service requested by a user of the service requesting apparatus (*referring to client device 112 in figure 1 or client device 504 in figure 5*), wherein said service mediating apparatus specifies an appropriate one of said at least two service providing apparatuses, which performs a process corresponding to the instruction (*col. 6, lines 38-57 by specifying the web browser which website to retrieve though URL "identifier"*), and specifies a speech recognition engine, from a plurality of speech recognition engines (*a plurality of media servers 106 in figure 1, each includes a speech recognition engine depicted in figure 3. The plurality of speech recognition engines in the plurality of media servers are used to handle a plurality of communications with a plurality of users. It is inherent in a system supporting multiple communications to have a feature directing a received input speech to an available speech recognition engine*), wherein the specified speech recognition

engine recognizes the voice input from said user appropriate to the specified one of said at least two service providing apparatuses (*col. 6, lines 38-57 by specifying the web browser which website to retrieve though URL "identifier"*), and wherein the specified one of said at least two service providing apparatuses processes information to provide its service based on the speech recognition performed by the specified speech recognition engine (*requested web site 114 in figure 1 is download to the client device 112 in figure 1 or service providing apparatuses 500 in figure 5 provides corresponding service requested*).

Kurganov et al. fail to specifically disclose that the mediating apparatus specifies a speech recognition engine, from a plurality of speech recognition engines. However, Besling et al. teach that the mediating apparatus specifies a speech recognition engine, from a plurality of speech recognition engines (*col. 4, line 43 to col. 5, line 19*).

Since Kurganov et al. and Besling et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Kurganov et al. by incorporating the teaching of Besling et al. in order to achieve faster speech recognition when there are multiple accesses.

7. Regarding claim 21, Kurganov et al. further disclose the service providing system according to claim 20, wherein said service mediating apparatus includes a table having a plurality of entries, which defines corresponding relationships between said service providing apparatuses and speech recognition engines each of which recognizes a

particular speech (*database 100 in figure 1 or dataset 508 in figure 5, upon recognizing the requested service, "identifier" associated with requested service is provided for locating the requested service*). Kurganov et al. fail to specifically disclose a table used by said service mediating apparatus to select one of said speech recognition engines which recognizes said particular speech corresponding to said instruction. However, Besling et al. teach the step of selecting one of said speech recognition engines which recognizes said particular speech corresponding to said instruction (*col. 4, line 43 to col. 5, line 19*).

Since Kurganov et al. and Besling et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Kurganov et al. by incorporating the teaching of Besling et al. in order to achieve faster speech recognition when there are multiple accesses.

8. Regarding claim 26, Kurganov et al. further disclose the service providing system according to claim 20, wherein said service mediating apparatus, comprising: means for receiving, via said network, a voice input indicating an instruction as to a service requested by a user of the service requesting apparatus, the voice input having been received by said service requesting apparatus (*col. 6, lines 38-67*); means for specifying one of said at least two service providing apparatuses, which performs a process corresponding to the instruction (*col. 6, lines 38-57 by specifying the web browser which website to retrieve though URL "identifier"*); means for specifying a speech recognition

engine which recognizes the voice input from the user appropriate to the specified one of said at least two service providing apparatus (*a plurality of media servers 106 in figure 1, each includes a speech recognition engine depicted in figure 3. The plurality of speech recognition engines in the plurality of media servers are used to handle a plurality of communications with a plurality of users. It is inherent in a system supporting multiple communications to have a feature directing a received input speech to an available speech recognition engine*).

Kurganov et al. fail to specifically disclose a table having a plurality of entries defining corresponding relationships between said at least two service providing apparatuses and speech recognition engines each of which recognizes particular speech, the table is used to select one of said speech recognition engines which recognizes said particular speech corresponding to the instruction. However, Besling et al. teach entries defining corresponding relationships between said at least two service providing apparatuses and speech recognition engines each of which recognizes particular speech, the entries are used to select one of said speech recognition engines which recognizes said particular speech corresponding to the instruction (*col. 4, line 43 to col. 5, line 19*).

Since Kurganov et al. and Besling et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Kurganov et al. by incorporating the teaching of Besling et al. in order to achieve faster speech recognition when there are multiple accesses.

9. Regarding claim 30, Kurganov et al. further disclose the service providing system according to claim 20, wherein said service mediating apparatus further comprising: a receiving device for receiving user voice information indicating an instruction as to a service requested by a user of the service requesting apparatus (*figure 1*); a storage device for storing a program for specifying a service corresponding to the instruction indicated by the voice information and for specifying a speech recognition program for recognizing the voice information based on the specified service (*col. 6, lines 38-57 by specifying the web browser which website to retrieve though URL "identifier" and/or a plurality of media servers 106 in figure 1, each includes a speech recognition engine depicted in figure 3. The plurality of speech recognition engines in the plurality of media servers are used to handle a plurality of communications with a plurality of users. It is inherent in a system supporting multiple communications to have a feature directing a received input speech to an available speech recognition engine*); a processing device under said program for specifying the service corresponding to the instruction indicated by the user voice information and for specifying the speech recognition program which recognizes the voice information based on the specified service (*a plurality of media servers 106 in figure 1, each includes a speech recognition engine depicted in figure 3. The plurality of speech recognition engines in the plurality of media servers are used to handle a plurality of communications with a plurality of users. It is inherent in a system supporting multiple communications to have a feature directing a received input speech to an available speech recognition engine*); and an output device for outputting

information for recognizing the user voice information to said speech recognition engine which recognizes a voice under the specified speech recognition program (*figure 1, received speech is forward to an assigned speech recognizer to recognize speech and associate the recognized speech with an identifier used to retrieve requested web site and output to the retrieved web site to the user*).

Kurganov et al. fail to specifically disclose a table having a plurality of entries defining corresponding relationships between said at least two service providing apparatuses and speech recognition engines each of which recognizes particular speech, the table is used to select one of said speech recognition engines which recognizes said particular speech corresponding to the instruction. However, Besling et al. teach entries defining corresponding relationships between said at least two service providing apparatuses and speech recognition engines each of which recognizes particular speech, the entries are used to select one of said speech recognition engines which recognizes said particular speech corresponding to the instruction (*col. 4, line 43 to col. 5, line 19*).

Since Kurganov et al. and Besling et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Kurganov et al. by incorporating the teaching of Besling et al. in order to achieve faster speech recognition when there are multiple accesses.

10. Regarding claims 22-25, 27-29, and 31-32, Kurganov et al. further disclose the service providing system, wherein said corresponding relationship are described by a voice extended markup language (*col. 17, lines 5-39*), wherein information described by said voice extended markup language includes information specifying an execution condition for recognizing a voice (*col. 17, lines 5-39*), wherein said speech recognition engine which recognize said voice is coupled to said network (*figure 1*), and wherein said service requesting apparatus is an information processing apparatus usable in a moving vehicle (*client device 112 in figure 1 is a mobile device*).

11. Regarding claim 33, Kurganov et al. further disclose the service providing system according to claim 30, wherein said storage device holds a speech recognition program, and said processing device recognizes said user voice information using the speech recognition program (*media servers 106 in figure 1*).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Halverson et al. (US 6757718) teach a system for navigating an electronic data sources by using spoken input that is considered pertinent to the claimed invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huyen Vo whose telephone number is 571-272-7631. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doris To can be reached on 703-305-4827. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HXV

May 11, 2005

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SUSAN MCFADDEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER